

Amendments to the Specification:

Page 2, paragraph 0004, substitute the following paragraph:

Others have examined some of these issues and proposed solutions. In particular, method and standards have been developed and are evolving with respect to sharing and utilizing resources across machines in a network. This is known as "grid computing" or simply "grids" and techniques employed there are well known to those reasonably skilled in the arts relevant to the present invention. Two industry articles which may be referenced for general background information on grids are *The Physiology of the Grid: An Open Grid Services Architecture for Distributed Systems Integration*, by I. Foster et al, published by an organization known as Globus at their Internet web site in June 1992; and *The Grid: Blueprint for a New Computing Infrastructure*, by I. Foster et al, Morgan Kaufman, 1999. To the extent these papers are helpful in understanding the background of the present invention, they are incorporated by reference herein in their entirety.